



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue #11

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

14 July 2011

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

News from Above the Lakes

Randy Cabbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, sent the shots below of kudzu bugs/bean plataspid on volunteer corn in a soybean field. The bugs were all over the soybeans, but they do prefer vertical surfaces and will aggregate on things like these corn plants that stand above the canopy.



News from Below the Lakes

A producer in Ehrhardt, SC, reported this week that he harvested his edamame (edible) soybeans, and they were infested with kudzu bugs by the thousands. They were also all over his house windows.

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News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Jay Crouch, area county agent in Newberry, reported that he is seeing “fairly high populations of plataspids (kudzu bugs) in most bean fields” right now.

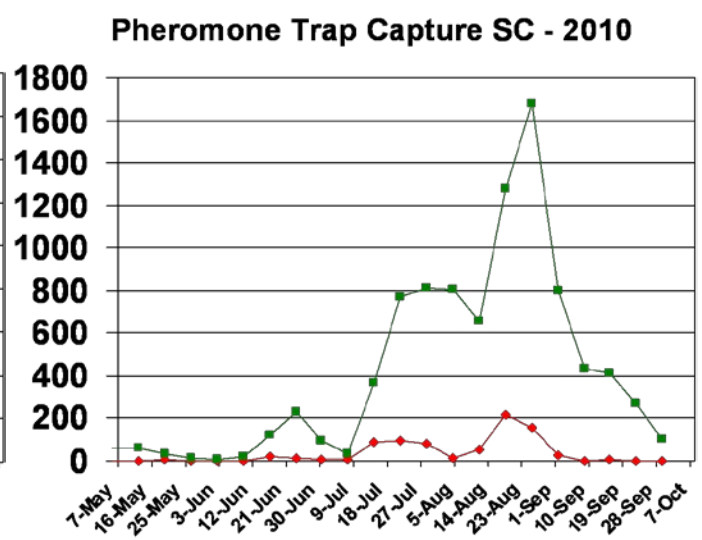
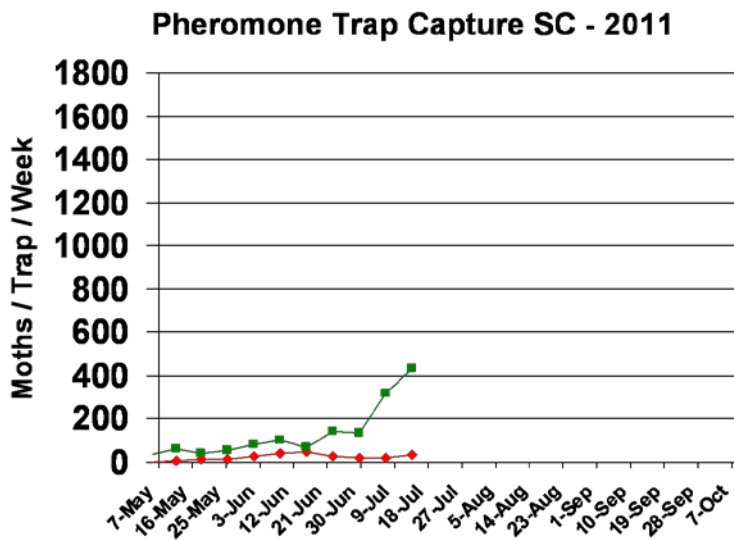
Cotton Situation

As of 11 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 70% of the crop as squaring, compared with 67% last year at this time and 62% for the 5-yr average. About 35% of the crop has set bolls, compared with 16% last year at this time and 10% for the 5-yr average. Temperatures have remained high, and widespread showers have brought relief to some areas, but we need more. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 30% very short, 51% short, 19% adequate, with no surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 4% very poor, 13% poor, 48% fair, 34% good and 1% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar so far – how high with they go this year? Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



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Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

Soybean Situation

As of 11 July 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 98% of soybeans as planted, behind where we were last year and the 5-yr average of 100%. About 89% of soybeans have emerged, behind where we were last year at 97% and the 5-yr average of 95%. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 7% very poor, 33% poor, 41% fair, 19% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 45 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Because we have almost confirmed the presence of this species on a host plant in every county in SC, I am now asking that all wanting to provide information about occurrence of this species inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. ***Please email me with reports from soybeans in all counties not reporting them in the crop previously – see map below.***



Eggs



Nymphs



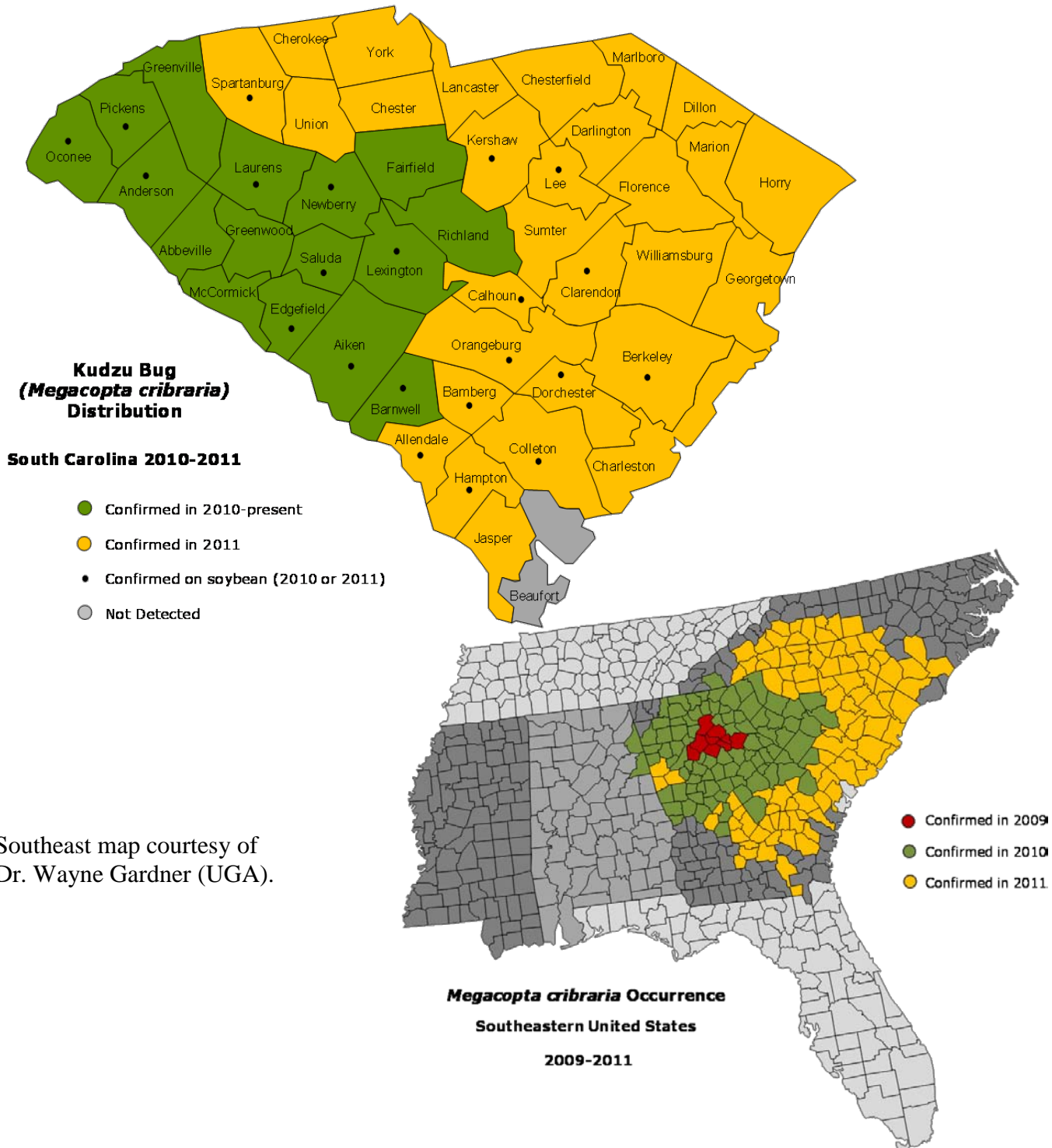
Adults



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids are showing up in soybeans right now. Be on the lookout for adults, eggs, and hatching immatures in the next week or two. My graduate student and I visited with a local producer this week and set up a trial where the producer agreed to treat every other pass in the field with a pyrethroid insecticide. The untreated passes will remain untreated with broad-spectrum insecticides all season, and we will compare the yields from the treated and untreated replications. We will be sampling the strips every week to document the numbers of kudzu bugs in treated and untreated passes. We will also count all other pest insects just in case other yield-limiting insects are present. The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We have just 1 county remaining (Beaufort) from which the insect has not been reported as established on a host (I will check that county this weekend). We are now documenting the presence of the species on



soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more will be observed on the crop this season. A map of the infested portions of the southeastern USA is also shown.



Southeast map courtesy of Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA).

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Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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